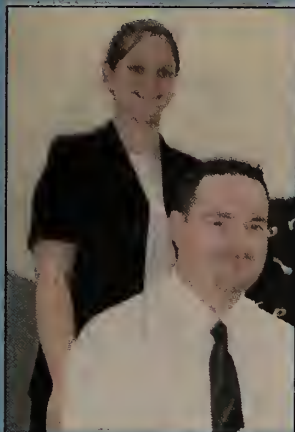


SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

MAY 29, 2000

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Civilization not very civilized

SuperBuild fund to create 71 new college classrooms

Funds fall short of expectations, but new facilities could be built at Waterloo or Doon campuses

By Laura Czekaj

The \$14.22 million Conestoga College received from the provincially funded SuperBuild Growth Fund may not provide enough money to finance a new Waterloo campus, according to college president John Tibbits.

"The problem is whether the \$14.2 million is enough to move ahead in Waterloo," said Tibbits.

He said that the college needs to debate further whether construction of a new Waterloo campus is possible, but if it is not, he said expansion to the Doon campus is the next logical route.

The funding, which was announced by Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, during a press conference held at Conestoga May 18, is \$25 million short of the college's original request of \$39 million.

Tibbits told reporters at the conference that although \$14 million is not \$39 million, it is better than nothing. He added that the small amount of funding will be easier for the college to manage and that expansion of programs and facilities is still expected.

"This is the biggest project the college has ever received," Tibbits said. "It will cover us for infrastructure for the next three to five years."

The money will go toward creating 1,430 new spaces at Conestoga, including 71 new classrooms and eight new laboratories, with the plan to expand programs in information technology, engineering technology, multimedia communications, health sciences and police, fire and emergency services.

Expansions to the Doon campus would see the building of a new health sciences wing located off of the D wing in the direction of the recreation centre, and additional labs in the A wing. Tibbits said construction for expansions to Doon would begin in spring 2001.

With the construction of additional facilities, the college will be hiring about 30 new teachers, mainly in health sciences.

Intake levels for programs allotted to expand will increase by 100 in information technology, 250 to 300 in health sciences, 30 to 50 in communications and 60 in police,

fire and emergency services.

The SuperBuild Growth Fund, which held \$742 million in its coffers, was established by the provincial government in an effort to modernize and build post-secondary institutions, as well as improve education and meet increased student demand.

With the introduction of applied degree status, Tibbits said, certain programs will be going to a four-year format rather than the current three years. Therefore, the college will need to create additional spaces to provide for the increase of students.

Conestoga's original proposal was bypassed by the government during the first round of funding in February. A lobby effort on behalf of the college was undertaken by politicians and local businesses to get the attention of the government. Elizabeth Witmer, minister of health and local MPP, noted the lobby group's efforts at the conference, saying it was a collective effort.



Cunningham

Cunningham said that the lack of funding was due to the government's failure to discuss the proposals with the individual colleges prior to financing them. She noted that the competition among the proposals was severe and said the government didn't have enough money to fund all schools that had submitted proposals.

"We didn't have enough to go around," she said.

Tibbits stressed that the failure to win funding in February is a thing of the past and said the next step for the college is to maximize growth to meet the community's needs.

Conestoga has accumulated \$36.89 million for expansion, \$14.22 million from SuperBuild, \$20.06 million from private contributions, \$1.5 million from the municipal government and \$1.11 million from the college.

Kevin Mullan, vice-president of finance and administrative operations, said the bulk of the \$1.11 million contributed by the college will come from future revenues from things such as parking fees.

Tearing down the walls



John Mills shovels bits of concrete into a bin from a wall being torn down on the first floor at Conestoga College's Doon campus on May 18.

(Photo by Donna Ryves)

New parking lot possible in Doon campus changes

By Jes Brown

Parking at Conestoga College could change this summer, with the addition of a new parking lot behind lot three by the woodwork-building.

"I think it's more than a possibility," said Allan Hunter, security supervisor. He said he doesn't have any specific details yet, but he has seen preliminary drawings.

If the new lot is added it will be a daily parking lot. The designations of the other lots and the decals will be changed.

The prices of the parking decals may also be changing but at this point no decisions have been made, said Hunter.

Another possible is the creation of a visitor parking area in lot six beside door 1.

He said that if the parking lot is added, it will have daily or weekly parking.

Hunter said that when a teacher in a program brings in a guest speaker they can purchase daily parking for that speaker and this area of the lot will be for that purpose.

There will also be metered parking in the new lot.

The college is also exploring the possibility of updating the parking meters at the school, with ones that take more than just quarters.

"We'll be looking at electronic meters as well," Hunter said.

Extra security on hand for visit by minister

By Laura Czekaj

Security at Conestoga College was beefed up on May 18 when Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, attended a SuperBuild press conference at the college's Doon campus.

The press conference was held to announce the provincial government's donation of \$14.22 million from the SuperBuild Growth Fund to assist in the college's plans to expand.

Although college security supervisor Al Hunter said he can not discuss the measures that were taken by the college or the ministry to ensure Cunningham's safety, he did say the college has a security protocol it follows every time a VIP vis-

its.

The protocol calls for extra staff to be present, emergency routes to be mapped out and an emergency medical plan to be decided on before the VIP arrives.

Cunningham recently had problems with student protesters during a press conference at Seneca College in North York to announce the government's approval of private, degree-granting institutions.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities declined to comment on whether extra security measures were taken during the minister's visit to Conestoga.

Hunter said the ministry called him two days prior to the event to discuss security measures. He said he has never had a problem with protesters while a VIP was here.

Archaic penal system needs to be changed

Current system an inhumane response to criminal behaviour in society

From May 10-13, Toronto hosted the ninth International Conference on Penal Abolition. During this conference, it became apparent that the current penal system is an archaic and inhumane response to our social differences and that change needs to be implemented.

Delegates from the conference have challenged the existing revenge approach to criminal justice, and called for healing for victims, offenders, their families and the community. They believe that crimes occur because of flaws in our society. The conference concluded that these wrongs could be righted if we use the problem of crime as a chance to ameliorate.

In today's increasingly violent society, many people misconstrue the reason we have a penal system. It shouldn't be to punish criminals and it shouldn't be a means of revenge.

The intent of a penal system should be made clear. It should effectively integrate people in trouble with the law back into the community and provide services to help those affected by the criminal justice system.

"I soon learned to watch a man bleed and die on the floor and at the same time sit in my cell and watch a hockey game and not let it bother me." A major problem related to the current penal system is that young people, who are thrown into jail for petty crimes, become locked up in a hate-filled environment with adept criminals and receive an advanced lesson in crime. For example, in a May 13 article in the Toronto Star, prison lifer Rick Sauve was quoted as saying, "I soon learned to watch a man bleed and die on the floor and at the same time sit in my cell and watch a hockey game and not let it bother me."

He said some of his memories of being in jail include animal screams, murders and suicides. He sometimes also went 32 months without seeing the blue sky or the green grass.

Being confined in a hostile and rancorous environment such as this only leads to unnecessary recidivism or chronic criminal activity, and could be stopped if the penal system changed to a more humane and effective place of rehabilitation.

A report written by Ottawa consultant Louise Dulude for the National Council of Welfare states that thousands of people end up in jail simply because they can't pay fines, and that low-income people are more likely to be denied bail, then end up without a lawyer.

This is a simple problem which can be solved many ways, says the report.

First off, the creations of programs for minor offences that replace criminal charges and jail time with community service. Another way would be to create fines that reflect both the seriousness of the crime and what the offender can afford.

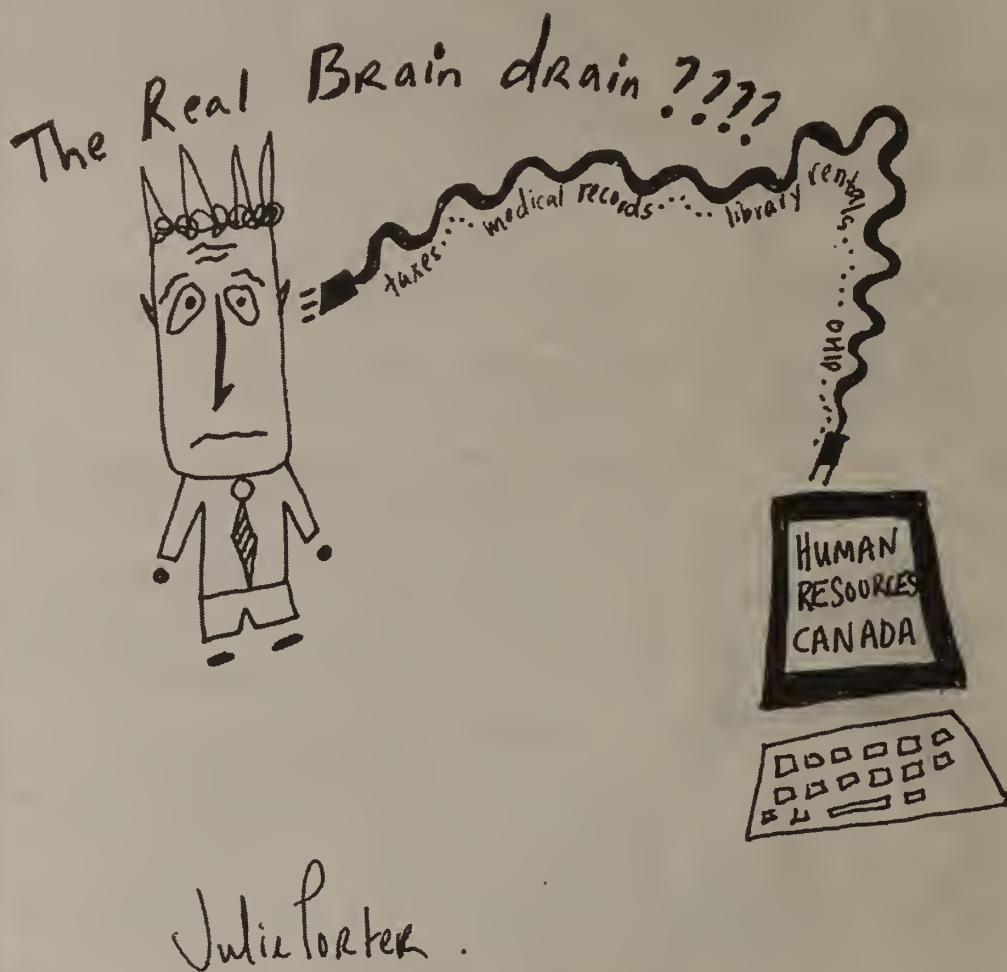
There are many effective programs in the Kitchener area that can help those in trouble with the law. One of these is the community aftercare program. This provides counselling that helps offenders assess their needs and to develop a realistic plan of action to reach their goals. The men's treatment program addresses the cycle of family violence in society and is another effective program.

Targeted at male abusers, the group has a remedial atmosphere that helps men to understand, take responsibility for, and stop their controlling and violent behaviour.

Once we have created a humane and benevolent penal system, crime rates are certain to drop dramatically and we can then focus our attention at getting to the root of the problem.

The Russian author, Fyodor Dostoevski, once said, "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

Until changes in the penal system are made, no country in this world can be referred to as civilized.



School caught in middle

Everybody has the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty, but what happens when you are charged with an offence against someone you attend school with?

A May 13 article that appeared in The Record said that officials at a Kitchener high school have refused to discipline a 16-year-old boy charged with sexually assaulting a female student.

However, the 16-year-old victim wants the boy removed from the school because seeing the boy causes her emotional stress.

According to the article, the girl alleges the boy followed her into a darkened hallway, grabbed her from behind and began kissing and groping her. She said she managed to break free and ran away from the boy.

The families of the victim and the accused are in a dispute because the school has decided it will not

remove the boy from the school after an investigation, required by the school's zero-tolerance policy on harassment and sexual assault, by officials at Grand River collegiate institute.

The article also stated that police confirmed the boy was charged with sexual assault after an incident occurred in the hallway of the school.

The school has been put in the middle of a difficult situation.

If the boy is found guilty of the sexual assault, the school will be criticized for putting the young girl through the additional pain of being forced to see the boy who devastated her with the attack.

If the school removes the boy and he is found innocent, the school would be responsible for his loss of education during the time of trial.

The right of being innocent until proven guilty comes with the price of others seeing you as guilty until proven innocent.

It's hard to reach a solid conclusion about such a troubled situation until a verdict is reached. The family of the victim describes their daughter in the article as being an

honour roll student who has never been in trouble, but the family of the accused describes their son in the same fashion.

It is understandable that the girl who made the allegation would feel uncomfortable with the boy in the school, and although the boy has to be presumed innocent at this time, some kind of plan must be designed to ease the girl's mind.

The whole problem is that the family of the boy refuses to stand by and watch their son be removed from school because they don't believe he is guilty of a crime, and the family of the victim wants the boy removed.

Since the boy was criminally charged, it only makes sense to have him taken from classes, but since he is innocent until proven guilty his education should not be endangered.

Nobody will feel they are being served properly until the verdict is reached, but until then a temporary Band-Aid is a necessity.

Why not avoid all the heartache and bickering and have the boy assigned work he can do at home until the courts solve the situation.



Mike Radatus

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Bursary changed to better benefit students in need

Loan forgiveness threshold lowered so scholarship recipient gets cash

By Ray Bowe

The Ontario government has announced changes that will allow students who received a Canada Millennium Scholarship, a federal bursary, to actually benefit from it.

Previously, students who received the bursary saw little to no benefit because the money would only go towards debt they wouldn't have to pay anyway.

Carol Walsh, a financial-aid officer at Conestoga College, said many students declined to accept the Millennium funds because they would not benefit from the award. The government awards the bursaries to the most needy students, determined from the government's list of student loans.

Under last year's OSAP regulations, the maximum a student would have to pay back to the government was \$7,000 per year, plus taxes and interest. However, the bursary amount was knocked off the top of the loan, in effect reducing the federal debt, not the student's debt. Basically, the federal funds were covering parts of the province's loan forgiveness program.

With the province lowering its forgiveness threshold to \$6,500, the changes will give students at least a \$500 break on their total loan. For example, a student who receives \$9,000 in assistance would see their maximum payment reduced to \$6,500, and then the \$500 bursary would be subtracted from that amount. A student can accumulate up to \$15,000 in Millennium bursaries over a three years.

Walsh said the government was creating a lot of "smoke and mirrors" during the whole implementation. Provinces, such as Alberta, avoided this dilemma by giving students cash, instead of directly depositing it.

When the bursaries were first awarded in 1999-2000, the government was shocked when students began refusing them and citing why they had done so.

After a look at the numbers, a whirlwind of bad publicity arose, forcing the government to back-track.

Changes have been implemented, said Walsh, meaning that even the students who received the scholarship last year will be subject to the new regulations.

College radio to follow guidelines on content

Offensive talk like Dr. Laura's would face ban

By Tracy Ford

The college's new radio station will follow standards set by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, which would mean it would follow guidelines such as a recent call to censor controversial radio talk show host Laura Schlessinger.

Mike Thurnell, co-ordinator of the broadcasting — radio and television program, said that the new college FM radio station set to air in the fall will be monitored for content.

"We will be developing a code in terms of content and things of that nature," Thurnell said.

The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council recently warned Schlessinger, an American radio talk show host known as Dr. Laura to her listeners, that her anti-gay comments might have her pulled from Canadian radio stations. Schlessinger now is carried week-day afternoons on CKGL 570 AM in Kitchener.

Schlessinger said during her show that homosexuals are "abnormal, aberrant and deviant." The council has asked all stations that broadcast her show to censor any anti-gay statements.

Schlessinger is not the only outspoken American radio talk show host to run afoul of Canadian standards.

Shock-jock Howard Stern came under fire from the council after saying that French Quebecers were "scumbags" and that they should all learn English. A Montreal station, which aired the show, has since dropped the show and the Toronto station which airs the show occasionally edits the content.

Thurnell said that the college radio station would not be airing anything that would be deemed inappropriate by the council.

"I think the decision made by the council is fair."

He said guidelines taught during broadcasting classes will be carefully reviewed so that the college can apply them to the new radio station.

"We already have policies that

are written down in terms of acceptable language and things of that nature," Thurnell said.

The majority of radio stations in Canada follow the guidelines set by the council. The code outlines language uses, content and format.

Thurnell said the broadcasting program has had problems with inappropriate behaviour before.

"We have pulled students off the air because of inappropriate behaviour, usually immaturity or if they break format, but not for racism," he said.

The students in those cases were reprimanded, he said.

"We monitor what goes on pretty closely."

Thurnell advises listeners who are concerned with a station's content to contact the station manager.

He said the station will usually solve the problem but formal complaints can also be made to the council at www.cbsc.ca.

Corrections

In the May 15 edition of Spoke, in the story entitled Computer Services supervisor terminated, Tony Pimenoff's title was incorrect.

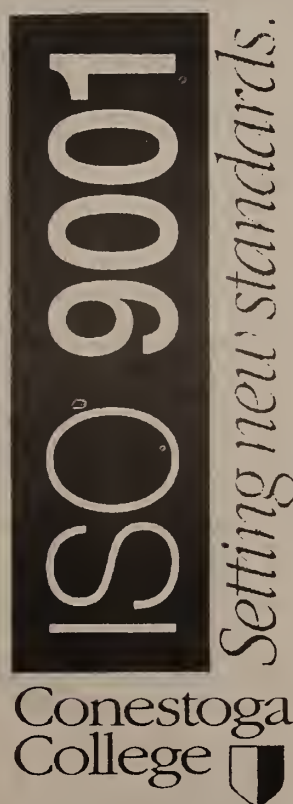
Pimenoff's job title was director of information technology services.

In the May 23, in the editorial titled Ontario's 2000 budget is full of empty promises, Toronto

Star columnist Michelle Landsberg's name was misspelled.

In the May 23 edition, in the front page photo, people were named incorrectly.

The correct identification was, from left to right, Gerry Parsons, Gail Noble, Marg Tupling and Margaret Burnes. Spoke regrets the errors.



Conestoga
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Quality Policy

Conestoga College continually seeks opportunities for improvement to meet and exceed the needs of our students, employees and communities.

Skills Canada holds conference

By Donna Ryves

About 200 people attended a young women's conference organized by Skills Canada on May 16 at Conestoga College's Blue Room.

Students from 10 high schools were present along with 50 mentors, women who work in non-traditional roles across the province.

The conference, which ran from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., was organized to encourage young women to enter non-traditional careers.

"We are trying to target young women in grades nine and 10 who could be or should be considering trades and non-traditional roles for women," said Maureen Prince, a placement officer in the co-operative education department with the Waterloo Catholic district school board who sat on the planning committee for the conference.

The conference started with guest speaker Patti Walker, a freelance

speaker from the Toronto area, who spoke about networking. The students were then presented with a "super nail challenge" where they had to balance 14 nails on a piece of wood about four inches by four inches that had a nail hammered in the centre.

The activity was presented by Sue Kyle, co-ordinator of precision metal trades at Niagara College, who started her career as a hairstylist and switched paths by becoming involved in trades.

"I traded my haircutting tools for metal-cutting tools," Kyle said.

Kyle explained that in the past, girls weren't permitted to take shop classes in schools and were discouraged from entering trades.

"I didn't think of myself as mechanically inclined," Kyle said.

Non-traditional career paths for women include welders, gas fitters, industrial engineers, gas technicians, electricians and firefighters.

According to Statistics Canada, the annual starting salary for a secretary is \$25,000 a year, whereas the starting salary for a fork lifter operator is \$50,000 a year.

The conference exposed the students to other peers interested in skilled trades and their mentors shared their experiences in their unusual professions.

"You get first hand, current information from people who are in the fields," said Jane Jewson, a guidance counsellor and enrichment teacher at Cameron Heights collegiate institute in Kitchener.

Jewson said that the comfort level was high at the conference because all the students were females rather than shop guys.

"Everybody thinks their son or daughter is going to be a doctor or lawyer, but it's obviously not the case," Jewson said.

The new secondary school curriculum has been changed so that students are required to take additional math and technology courses to compete in the changing world, Jewson said.

The students and teachers took a break for lunch and were encouraged to speak with each other and network.

One mentor, Sherry Waddell, a firefighter with the Kitchener fire department, spoke with students and allowed them to try on her firefighting gear that she brought along.

Waddell said her job is physically demanding and she is expected to do the same things as her male colleagues.

Her firefighting equipment weighs nine kilograms without an air pack and an extra 20 kilograms with it. Waddell's previous job was managing retail stores.



Maureen Prince, a placement officer in the co-operative education department with the Waterloo Catholic district school board and a member of the planning committee for Skills Canada, helps to prepare for the conference for young women.

(Photo by Donna Ryves)

Patterns and shapes part of photography competition at college

By Donna Ryves

The photography competition of the 11th annual Technological Skills Competition sponsored by Skills Canada was held at the college's Doon campus May 16 while hundreds of elementary and high school students gathered at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium for 39 other events.

The other competitions included baking, carpentry, plumbing, welding and virtual robotics.

The photography competition involved high school students from all over Ontario whose task was to combine practical and theoretical knowledge of photography.

The photographs had to demonstrate patterns and shapes.

"The students had to look at ordinary things in a new way," said Jason Gennings, a part-time teacher in the journalism program who co-chaired the photography competition. Some of the objects the students shot included wheels of cars, grates, fences, leaves and mirrors.

The students were responsible for bringing their own camera gear, developing equipment and samples of their work.

The college provided chemicals for developing black-and-white film and enlarging equipment. Kodak provided film and paper.

"The students seemed to have a lot of fun," Gennings said. The students came from places such as Etobicoke and Kingston and had six hours to take pictures, develop film and make prints.

"I think it's a good experience to find out more about the field I'm going into," said Denisa Mele, a Grade 13 competitor from Father Henry Carr Secondary School in Etobicoke.

Students were chosen for the competition based on a portfolio



Denisa Mele, a Grade 13 competitor from Etobicoke, sets up a shot for the photography portion of Skills Canada on May 16.

(Photo by Donna Ryves)

that was submitted earlier to a panel of teachers.

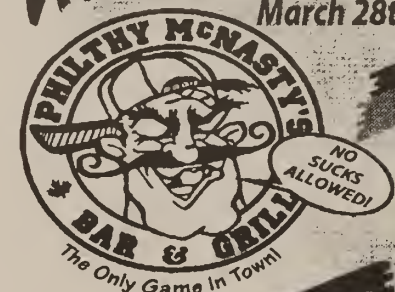
"It was a good day for photography because when rain didn't hit we got overcast, which provides great lighting for photography," Gennings said.

The judging criteria were based on artistic interpretation, with a hands-on component accounting for 85 per cent and a theory component worth 15 per cent.

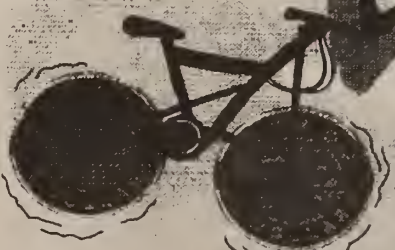
Skills Canada is made up of educators, students, employers, labour groups and government officials who promote technical careers as first choice options.

The provincial winners have the opportunity to compete in the 6th annual Canadian Skills Competition held June 2-6 at Laval University in Quebec City.

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Security cuts locks in error

By Jes Brown

Security staff began cutting off locks on lockers May 9, but some of those locks were supposed to be there.

"There were about eight or nine locks cut off in error," said Allan Hunter, security supervisor at the college. He explained the records that security has showed that those particular lockers should have been vacated April 28.

"Those students were legitimately in those lockers," Hunter said. "It was not a student error, it was a college administration error."

When the students whose locks were cut off came to the security office, Hunter said, staff returned their property and replaced their locks.

"Those students are back in their lockers now."

Hunter said such errors don't happen often and staff will do everything possible to make sure it doesn't happen again. He said that from time to time errors happen.

"It was just a little hiccup. I hope it doesn't happen again," Hunter said. "It's an inconvenience for the students and certainly an inconvenience for us."

Used textbook sale cancelled for August

By Mike Radatus

Conestoga Students Inc. will not be holding a used book sale in the fall, but other alternatives such as a buy-and-sell Web site may be explored.

Brad Whiteford, vice-president of operations for the CSI, formerly called the Doon Students Association, said that reasons for the cancellation include time constraints and administrative concerns.

Whiteford said it has been difficult in the past to manage the book sale during the busy time when students return during orientation week, causing the sale to drag on into late September and early October.

The administration of the book sale was complicated, said Whiteford, and there were students who would return months later looking for the money from their books that were sold.

Whiteford said another problem the DSA ran into during the last years was controlling the books being sold. In some instances, textbooks would be updated, causing the used textbooks to be out of date.

Also, a lot of the books that were not sold ended up being left in the CSI office for storage until they

were picked up.

Whiteford said that the administration of the book sale was too time consuming for the DSA because of other responsibilities executive members had during the busy time period and the small staff.

Whiteford outlined possible solutions to make up for the cancellation of the book sale.

A computerized control system would include a list of books available as well as a way for students to find out if and when the books they are trying to sell have been sold. The intent is to stop confusion.

The CSI may explore starting a buy-and-sell page on its Web site where students would be in control of prices and books on the site.

However, before going that route, Whiteford said, the organization has to talk with its lawyers because the site would work as an open auction and the CSI would have no control over prices or the quality of books.

The other solution involves re-scheduling the book sale to a future date. The CSI would consider this idea if student volunteers could be recruited or if a computerized control system can be created.

A computerized control system would include a list of the books available as well as a way for students to find out if and when the books they are trying to sell have been sold. This would help stop the confusion of students not knowing where their books are and if they have been sold.

Whiteford said one idea he has is to get a computer program analysis student or a student from a database program to design the control system as a class project.

"That way we would be killing two birds with one stone," Whiteford said.

Until these alternatives are implemented, students can put up posters advertising the books they are trying to sell on the general posting boards located around the college or try the Internet to sell or purchase books, said Whiteford.

The CSI distributed a press release announcing the cancellation of the sale and the possibility of a Web page for students to buy and sell books. Posters announcing the sale's cancellation were also put up around the college.



Fortune Xpress winners of the Conestoga College microcomputer software project fair on May 18, Stacie Hooley (left), Joe Hoover (centre) and Peter Tam. (Photo by Sherri Osment)

Fast-food software places first at fair

By Sherri Osment

The group known as Fortune Xpress won first place in the microcomputer software program project fair held at Conestoga's Waterloo campus.

The winning team of Peter Tam, Joe Hoover and Stacie Hooley designed a software program that will help streamline Chinese food take-out orders.

A total of 12 teams developed applications to be entered in the project fair, held May 18, with five being chosen to present their projects to an independent panel made up of local business people and former students of the program.

The winners received \$150 for the team and a dinner at the Charcoal Steak House in Kitchener. The fair was sponsored by the Canadian Information Processing Society, the only authorized body in Ontario to represent the information technology industry, said Edmund Sharratt, a teacher in the computer programming analyst program.

Hooley said the project was a lot of hard work but "when you see the finished project it's worth it."

The program created by Fortune Xpress does such tasks as generating sales reports, adding discounts and taxes to orders and recalling previous customer orders.

Hooley said the project constituted the main part of the 40-week

certificate program and it helped her learn a lot about teamwork.

"Each person brings their own unique things to the group," Hooley said.

Hooley said she had little computer knowledge and found learning the computer jargon difficult when she started of the program.

"You go in with nothing and you come out programming," she said.

Another group, JMS systems, made up of Jeff Davis, Sean McDonald and Mat Nadrofsky, were the runners-up in the fair.

The JMS group designed a program for Web Pearls and Freedom HR, (human resources companies) that will enable the company to track employee performance, generate reports and show breakdowns of employee salaries.

Davis said he learned a lot from the microcomputer software program and has been recommending it to people.

He also had praise for the other members of his team.

"I felt we worked really well as a group," Davis said. "We made sure we were well prepared."

The other three final qualifiers were: Darkwaters Inc., consisting of Braden James, Andrew Karger and Sean Hill; PBS Designs, consisting of Sarah Gruelich, Brian Kendall and Pauline Pharoah; and Team Elite, consisting of Jeremy Clark, Angie Stercer and Jay Klesitz.

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The Dismemberment Plan

Band's complex sound moves Ted's Wrecking Yard crowd



The Dismemberment Plan's vocalist, Travis Morrison, screams on the stage of Ted's Wrecking Yard in Toronto on May 5.
(Photo by Ray Bowe)

By Ray Bowe

The Dismemberment Plan rocked a full house at Ted's Wrecking Yard in Toronto May 5, as they wrapped up their North American dates.

The Dismemberment Plan, a four-piece group based out of Washington, D.C., were on tour promoting their latest album, *Emergency & I*, released on DeSoto Records in 1999.

The band mixes a lot of keyboards into their wordy songs, comparable to Canadian rock legends Rush. However, at an instant, the band will break into a fully rocked riff accompanied by high-pitched screams and a full-on rampage on the drum kit.

The songs are almost like essays or involved tales of mishap and chaos in life. It's a wonder the singer can remember all of the lyrics.

The singer and second guitarist switched between the lead guitar assignment in different songs. At various points in the show, different band members would take a seat behind the Roland keyboards. The bassist tweaked the pitch on the track *A Life of Possibilities* while the guitarist took to the position on *8 1/2 Minutes*, an extended slow song. The singer also had another keyboard for *You Are Invited*, a song he began alone for the opening few minutes as the rest of the band took a break to replenish their beer supply. Right on cue, the band rejoined the singer to finish the song.

By this point the drummer had discarded his top shirt, revealing a Union Jack T-shirt, and also revealing his musical roots. The drummer's quick and tight style is reminiscent of the British punk scene of the '70s.

The album was mixed at Inner Ear Studios in Arlington, Va., by sound engineer Don Zientara, notable for mixing all of Fugazi albums.

The band had originally released their latest album on Interscope Records but were dropped by the label after four months. However, just as quickly as they were dropped, they were picked up by indie label DeSoto Records, run by ex-members of the seminal post-punk band Jawbox.

Other bands on the ticket included the impressive Jim Guthrie Quintet with their well-polished music and Snailhouse, a solo act.

This summer the band will be touring Europe with Pearl Jam.

Block party to rock city hall

By Ray Bowe

Kitchener will be throwing a massive, free block party in front of city hall June 2. The event's promotion material is calling it the biggest block party the city has ever seen.

Artists who are booked to play the event include Montreal's master scratcher Kid Koala, Strictly Kev from DJ Food, jazz outfit Bullfrog, Leeroy Brown, Stormshadow and ButtahFingaz.

There will also be a special appearance by Hard Nox Skoolerz, a break-dancing crew.

In addition to musical acts, there will also be video screens, an N64 exhibit, a barbecue and urban artists painting a Grand River Transit bus.

The event, scheduled to run from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m., is being sponsored by Canadian Heritage, Rogers Television, Exclaim magazine, Ninja Tune Records, Mondo-Live and Delirium Clothing.

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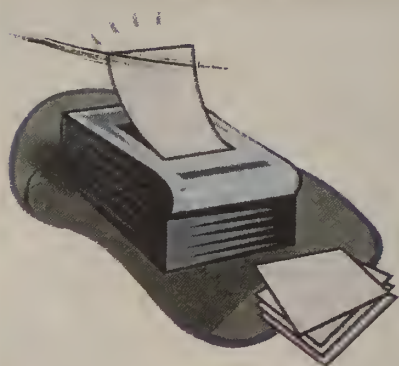
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